

The Bangor Beacon Community (BBC), comprised of 12 Partners and led by EMHS, is working to improve the health of chronically ill people in the Bangor region through sustainable care coordination that is facilitated by health information technology (HIT). More than a dozen additional statewide collaborators are working to ensure that the improved outcomes brought about through BBC learning and health information exchange, are extended throughout the State of Maine. The BBC is supported through a three year, \$12.75 million grant from the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for HIT.

Collaborative Highlights

ONC Beacon Dissemination Meeting – New Orleans, LA, February 6-8, 2012

In February 2012, team members from Bangor Beacon Community attended the Office of the National Coordinator Beacon Dissemination Meeting in New Orleans. This meeting provided the groundwork for disseminating best practices and lessons learned during the Beacon Grant. Attendees were advised that this final year of the grant will have the particular focus on best practices and innovations of health information technology (HIT) and attainment of Meaningful Use.

Patient Centered Strategy

Health Information Technology & Meaningful Use - The data exchange between HealthInfoNet and Penobscot Community Health Center (via Maine Primary Care Association's Data Warehouse) is now live. During March, HealthInfoNet will move forward with implementing the community-wide secure messaging solution for the Bangor Beacon Community. The Bangor Beacon Community was recently advised that the long-standing issue with MaineCare requiring the filtering out of medication information for drugs that are used for treatment of mental health, HIV and substance abuse has been resolved. MaineCare will finalize this change.

Workforce Development – Eastern Maine Community College has contracted with a current faculty member to develop a degree program proposal for Medical Office Management Technology which incorporates EMR training. This proposal was approved at the EMCC Faculty Senate level and proceeds through system processes for implementation for Fall 2012. EMCC continues working with Eastern Maine Healthcare System's Physician Support Services on this project to utilize GE Centricity EMR.

Immunizations – The immunization committee successfully returned immunization consent forms to employees whose primary care providers were either unlisted or unable to be contacted. The manual process of organizing and sending consent forms of immunized patients to primary care providers is unsustainable and the group will continue to explore how to use the available technology to make the process more automated.

HomeCare Transition of Care Project – The original project for 30-day post-discharge tele-monitoring has been closed and is being modified to better meet patient needs. St. Joseph inpatient care managers will begin assisting with enrollment of tele-monitored patients. EMMC Clinical Research staff has trained them in identifying patients and have been approved to see patients at St. Joseph Hospital.

Mental Health – A Mental Health Forum is planned for April 11 at the Black Bear Inn in Orono. The session will be held at 8 to 11:30 am. Participants will have an opportunity to engage in dialogue regarding privacy and sharing information for patients with mental health conditions and hear from a panel of statewide experts on these topics. To attend the session, RSVP to Samantha Haynes at 207-973-5644 or shaynes@emh.org.

Challenges/Opportunities

Sustainability – As the grant continues into its last year, the Sustainability Community of Practice has are in the development of drafting a revised workplan. The workplan will detail transitions to ensure the sustainability of effective care management services, open provider communications, sharing of best practices, systems connectivity while maintaining a pulse on quality and cost effective health.

**Bangor Beacon
Community
Partners**

EMHS

The Acadia Hospital

Community Health
and CounselingEastern Maine
Community CollegeEastern Maine
HomeCareEastern Maine
Medical Center

HealthInfoNet

Maine Primary
Care AssociationPenobscot
Community
Health Care

Ross Manor

St. Joseph
Healthcare

Stillwater Healthcare